

Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting
Dept. of Public Safety Conference Room, 215 E. 7th Street, Des Moines, IA
May 10, 2012

Voting Council Members Present: Acting Chairman Dale Woolery, Cyndy Erickson, Paul Stageberg, Kevin Gabbert for Kathy Stone, Todd Thoeming, David Lorenzen (phone), Warren Hunsberger, Jane Larkin, Brian Vos (phone) and Chris Wilson.

Non-Voting Members Present: Stephan Arndt, and COL Tom Staton.

Guests: Mike Wenger, Employee and Family Services.

Staff: Susie Sher and Becky Bell.

Welcome and introductions

Acting Chairman Woolery called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Paul Stageberg, seconded by Brian Vos, with Council members voting unanimously to approve the February 9, 2012 minutes as submitted.

“Drugs and Chemicals on Concern” watch list

Council members received a handout containing information from the DEA’s website. Sher said DEA has on their website a listing of scheduled drugs, synthetic drugs and other more abused drugs such as hydrocodone. If you click on any of the links on their list it will give you background information on the drug. ODCP would like to do something like this on our website. She asked the Council if this is a good idea, and if so should ODCP use DEA’s list or develop a list of our own, and should it only be new drugs and chemicals or should the list contain all scheduled I, II, and III drugs.

Woolery said in discussion of the synthetic drug legislation at the Capitol, it became clear that people get fatigued when agencies ask the legislature to schedule or control substances on a regular basis. A number of policy makers didn’t like the fact that ODCP was back so soon to fix something that they had just dealt with. With the nature of the synthetic drug issue, because they are synthetics and no one knows the history of them, and it appears they have no redeeming value but can cause great harm. What do you do in the interim period when you don’t want to run to the Capitol for the next drug of the week? Woolery said there needs to be a middle ground for the public to create awareness. Could this watch list be helpful with input from the right people who could provide guidance for Iowans to get information.

Arndt said it is a good idea but would like to have a short list or two sets of lists with one list containing drugs that are for real and one list containing all drugs that have possible criteria. He said you could have a threat thermometer based on known physical damage to kids and adults, or show how many are using the drug.

Stageberg agrees with the two lists. One called “emerging concerns”. This would include the designer drugs as more become in the public eye. He also said it would be nice to have a web page for media to go to get information.

Wilson said it would be valuable to have a picture and a little snip-it of what it is used for. Sher said she may be able to do that for the short list. Wilson said this would be helpful for parents and nurses.

Larkin agrees with the lists being very beneficial to parents and others to have a place to go for information.

Sher thanked the Council for their input. Woolery asked for other resources for ODCP to contact. Arndt said emergency room doctors and Stageberg suggested Linda Kalin of the Poison Control Center in Sioux City.

Prescription Drug Task Force Follow-up

Dr. Dana Simon, Mercy Hospital Center for Pain Medicine, reported on comments from the Office of Drug Control Policy Prescription Drug Task Force. Dr. Simon said his background has been in pain management for 30 years starting the pain clinic at Mercy Hospital. Before that he was an anesthesiologist in the emergency room at Mercy. He said opiates are the main stay for all kinds of pain with people. The “Safe Opioid Prescribing Course Book” designed for family practice doctors has become a tool in many different states for prescribing opiates.

Council members received a handout containing presentation information. He said the number of deaths associated with opioid administration could be reduced by putting more emphasis on preventative health care, general fitness and efforts to curb obesity. There is a need to start very early with kids in educating them in any form of drug and alcohol abuse. He said there is a tendency to confuse addiction with abuse and there is a need to instill fear in those who abuse prescription medication. Monetary and jail penalties are needed just as the same for those who abuse alcohol.

Opioid medications are necessary for acute, perioperative, or chronic pain relief in patients so they need not suffer without appropriate prescription of pain relieving medications. Patients should be evaluated and monitored while on opioids.

Dr. Simon said the public is not informed enough about the risks of opioids. Education needs to start in the home and in the schools. Likewise there needs to be consistent education of practicing physicians around “best practices” among physicians and healthcare professionals.

Dr. Simon said there should be support groups along the lines of “AA” for individual family members.

Legislative Updates

Woolery said Senate File 2313 passed both the House and Senate on May 7th allocating \$240,000 in funding for ODCP and cutting the office from 8 FTE’s to 4. The office will be co-located within the Department of Public Safety as they will also provide administrative support services to ODCP. Woolery appreciated everyone who reached out to assist ODCP.

Senate File 2343 synthetic drug scheduling bill including 400 new drug compounds did pass the House and Senate after five versions. Woolery said this was an excruciating process. The bill is effective immediately on enactment.

Agency/Organization Updates

Gabbert reported on the Department of Public Health's substance abuse tracking system called "I-Smart" where providers they support share software that contains substance abuse treatment information management.

Hunsberger said he enjoyed Dr. Simon's presentation and his agency has issues with patient rights preventing families from being in the know.

Arndt said that physicians do not think treatment works so they black list their patients. Communication is a big issue and opiates need to be monitored. His office is starting to branch out in terms of diversifying their funding streams by getting involved with other agencies.

Gabbert said their prevention staff is working on a summit to be held later on this summer looking at prevention and health promotion. The department is working on a system alignment initiative for gambling and has also been assisting the Department of Human Services with the mental health redesign.

COL Staton said the Counter Drug program is to provide military support to state agencies. There is a misconception that the Iowa Counter Drug program is a National Guard initiative and that is not the case. The Iowan National Guard receives its funding from the Department of Defense. The budget of the National Guard has been reduced 46% for FY'13. The Colonel's budget has been reduced around 50% so he is identifying which parts of his program will no longer be supported. Traditionally, they have provided criminal analysts and supported educators throughout the State, and an aviation unit. Decisions will eliminate their fulltime aviation unit, the Drug Demand Reduction unit will be reduced from five people to one person working in the Bureau of Substance Abuse within the Department of Public Health building community prevention and treatment coalitions. Criminal analysts in the field will also be trimmed back from eleven to eight and he will be working with senior law enforcement to establish their placement.

Stageberg said CJP's general funds were increased \$76,000. The problem is they do not know what they are to use that funding. CJP runs the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) program in the State and it has not had a program coordinator in the past. For the past six months as a few agencies provided funding for a coordinator. He said it was his hope they intended for that funding to be used for a full time coordinator because it is a full time job.

Legislation passed this session that requires CJP to complete a mental health study. The language asked for a substantial study but funding was not allocated for the study. Paul said the \$76,000 could have been allocated for this study but he will have to contract services out because CJP does not have the in-house resources to complete it.

Erickson said they are approaching the third year of their Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant. Two initiatives of the grant are to measure school safety environment and implement strategies in twenty high schools in Iowa. She said her department uses the Iowa Youth Survey information for this grant

and have partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation.

Larkin said she is in the process of contacting school districts in their service area to sign up for the Iowa Youth Survey. In 2010, there were a few schools in their area that did not take the survey. She asked the council for words of wisdom to encourage schools to take the survey. Jane said with the earlier presentation by Dr. Simon regarding education in the schools, her agency provides a science based curriculum in the elementary schools in their service area called "Too Good for Drugs."

Wilson said she has heard negative talk regarding the Iowa Youth Survey with school districts. There is a lot of frustration with the data coming back late and how it ties up staff and computer labs. She said school districts often go out and conduct testing on their own and those discussions are happening. This testing will hurt the prevention people as the youth survey information is used to obtain grants.

Larkin asked if anything is published by the Department of Education with regards to the Iowa Youth Survey. Erickson said they put information about it in their Leader Update newsletter that goes out to all schools districts. Discussion was held on the Department of Education sending out a letter to school districts superintendents regarding the timeliness of the information this year to encourage their participation.

Woolery said ODCP announced a new synthetic drug campaign. He toured the State with the Partnership @ Drugfree.Org and received a good reception. Woolery has appreciated the support from the Governor and Lt. Governor making this initiative a priority. The First Lady is also getting involved with the Partnership @ Drugfree.Org as substance abuse is one of her priorities.

The Byrne-JAG grant funds will be awarded on June 1. ODCP received 40 applications this year with 3.2 million dollars available and that is down from 4.1 million this current year.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 9, 2012 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Bell